

Having trouble reading this email? [View it in your browser.](#)

Western Area Power Administration

Powering the energy frontier



Good afternoon,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I share the retirement announcement of Chief Operating Officer Kevin Howard in February to spend more time with his family. Many of us who know Kevin personally can attest to his strong set of family values, which mirror his dedication to WAPA employees and to the mission.

A career at WAPA spanning 37 years has provided Kevin with deep organizational knowledge, long-standing industry relationships and a loyal following. When combined with his steady leadership, the story of a dedicated engineer that went from student to COO is nothing short of inspiring.

Kevin's long and exemplary career began in 1984 as a student at Colorado State University. After graduating he was hired as a control and protection field engineer, then held several management positions in the Rocky Mountain Region before being appointed to maintenance manager in 2008. Under his leadership, reportable accidents decreased by more than 50 percent. Kevin's commitment to safety remained a theme throughout his career.

Kevin graduated from the inaugural WAPA Executive Leadership Development Program in 2013 and went on to serve as vice president of power operations for Sierra Nevada.

In 2018 Kevin moved back to Colorado to serve as our COO. While his achievements in this role are many, these are some highlights:

- Led our investment strategy for the infrastructure bill.
- Oversaw the workload planning effort.
- Stood up a Human Performance Improvement/Just Culture program.
- Formalized our asset management practices improving reliability, informing capital investments, and prioritizing facilities for physical security needs.
- Strengthened Electric Power Training Center partnerships with the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers.

Finally, Kevin's leadership of emergency management has been instrumental to our ability to successfully navigate the pandemic. In fact, under Kevin's leadership, our safety record remains the highest in the industry.

As a friend and colleague, Kevin is an inspiration and will be greatly missed.

Please join me in congratulating Kevin on his upcoming retirement.

Tracey A. LeBeau | Administrator and Chief Executive Officer

Department of Energy

Western Area Power Administration | Headquarters

Western Area Power Administration
12155 W Alameda Pkwy Lakewood Colorado 80228 United States
This email was sent to: barendsen@wapa.gov
[Unsubscribe](#)